

Message Text

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AUGUST 1974. QUOTE:

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGSC VTECH, ENRG

SUXJECT:COMPLETION OF AEC ENRICHMENT CONTRACTING:

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

1. TEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT DISCUSSED SEPTTEL

FOLLOWS:

A. PRESIDENT NIXON TODAY IS REAFFIRMING THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL REMAIN A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF URANIUM ENRICHING

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SERVICES. SINCE 1969 THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION HAS

CONTRACTED TO PROVIDE SUCH SERVICES TO 72 U.S.MV
UTILITIES AND UTILITIES IN 18 FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

B. THE PRESIDENT WISHES TO LAY TO REST UNCERTAINTIES
WHICH HAVE RECENTLY ARISEN CONCERNING THE ASSURANCE OF
AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM. THE ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION IS NOW SIGNING ACCUMULATED PENDING CONTRACTS
TO ENRICH FUEL FOR NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS IN THE UNITED
STATES AND IN 17 DIFFERENT FOREIGN COUNTRIES. SOME OF
THE CONTRACTS WILL, ON AN INTERIM BASIS, BE OF A CONDI-
TIONAL NATURE SINCE SUPPLY UNDER THOSE CONTRACTS FROM THE
EXISTING THREE ENRICHMENT PLANTS IS DEPENDENT ON AEC
APPROVAL OF THE USE OF PLUTONIUM AS FUEL FOR NUCLEAR POWER
PLANTS. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT ASSURES HOLDERS OF CON-
DITIONAL CONTRACTS THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL, IN ANY
EVENT, FULFILL THE FUEL REQUIREMENTS IN THOSE CONTRACTS
FROM U.S. SUPPLY SOURCES.

C. UNITED STATES ENRICHMENT CAPACITY MUST BE INCREASED
TO MEET ITS OWN GROWING NEEDS FOR NUCLEAR POWER. AS A
MATTER OF U.S. POLICY, THE PRESIDENT STRESSES HIS
INTENTION THAT SUCH NEW CAPACITY BE AVAILABLE TO MEET
THE CONTRACTUAL NEEDS OF FUTURE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN
CUSTOMERS. THE PRESIDENT BELIEVES IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE
ADDITIONAL CAPACITY TO MEET SUCH NEEDS BE PROVIDED BY
PRIVATE INDUSTRY. HE NOTES THAT PRIVATE COMPANIES ARE
PREPARED TO PROVIDE THIS ADDITIONAL CAPACITY, AND THAT A
GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY IS CLEARLY NO LONGER APPROPRIATE.
EARLY AND RESPONSIBLE ACTIONS ON THE PART OF THE UTILITY
INDUSTRY, POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS, AND THE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY
ARE NEEDED TO MAKE PRIVATE ENRICHMENT A REALITY. THE
GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO ASSIST IN THIS EFFORT.

D. THE PRESIDENT AFFIRMS THAT ASSURED AND TIMELY AVAIL-
ABILITY OF ENRICHING SERVICES IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE
TO THOSE COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, THAT ARE
SELECTING NUCLEAR POWER AS A MAJOR SOURCE OF ENERGY FOR
THE COMING DECADES. NON-DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS TO SUCH
SERVICES, RELIABILITY IN SUPPLY, AND CONTINUING LEADERSHIP
IN TECHNOLOGY WILL BE ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF U.S. POLICY
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IN THE FUTURE AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST.

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